difficulties, like technical complexity. technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes, non-availability of infrastructure within the country, extended user trials, revision of systems specifications during development phase, etc. DRDO has taken remedial measures to complete the ongoing projects on time.

New Ammunition Stores

1215. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of ammunition presently lying in open plinth and non-conforming accommodation, if any; and

(b) the storage accommodation planning for the new ammunition stores planned to be acquired in next five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Approximately 85,000 MT of ammunition pertaining to Army is presently lying in open plinth/temporary accommodation. No ammunition is presently lying in open plinth and in non-confirming area in Navy and Air Force establishments. Capacity enhancement for storage of ammunition is an on-going process. However, there is no shortage of accommodation envisaged for Ammunition Stores in case of Air Force.

Disposal of Unserviceable Ammunitions in Defence Stores

1216. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of defence ammunition in stores that are unserviceable and awaiting disposal in the three services;

(b) how much space in these stores have been occupied that can be vacated on its disposal; and

(c) whether any R&D effort is being made for devising a suitable and safe disposal technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Presently, 300 MT and 3127.5 MT of unserviceable ammunition with the Navy and the Army respectively are awaiting disposal. No such ammunition is lying with Air Force.

(b) In the Naval Armament Depots unserviceable stores are occupying about 250 Light Ton (1 LT=40 cubic feet) of space, which can be vacated on its disposal. In Army, most of the unserviceable stores is kept in the open holding and would not impact the permanent storage of serviceable ammunition.

(c) There are standard procedures which are meticulously followed to ensure safe disposal of such ammunition. However Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES) has undertaken a project on demilitarization based on plasma pyrolysis, which will meet all safety and environmental standards and will be able to address all types of ammunition presently being held in the Army.

Pension to Ex-Servicemen with less than fifteen years of service

1217. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: